

Volunteers of America

# STRIVE Indy

*Significant Training Resulting in Valuable Employment*

Offer *hope*

Restore *dignity*

Transform *lives*

## What Is STRIVE-Indy?

- Department of Labor Demonstration Grant
- 1 of 9 such grants across the country
- A gender responsive and trauma informed program designed to assist, primarily female returning citizens with self-sustaining career based employment and life supports
- Holistic approach

## Our Purpose

To provide occupational and support services to adults with criminal histories that will improve long term employment prospects of the population

## Program Overview

- 2 year grant
- \$1.5 million dollar direct Department of Labor grant
- To serve 250 participants (225 females and 25 males)

## Program Outcomes

- 100% Enrollment Rate: 250 people will be enrolled over 2 years
- 30% Credential Rate: 75 people will receive a credential over 2 years
- 60% Job Placement: 150 people will be placed in full time employment over 2 years at \$9.00 per hour or more
- 70% Job Retention: 105 people will retain employment for at least 6 months
- Mentoring: 45 people will be matched with a mentor

## Service Delivery Team

All clients will be connected with

- Case Managers ( 2.5 FTE)
- Career Coach ( 1FTE)
- Community Liaison Coordinator (1FTE)
- Mentor Coordinator (1FTE)
- Program Director ( 1FTE)

# Services Volunteers of America Provides

- Comprehensive psycho-social assessment to identify needs
- Intensive case management
- Individualized service and career planning
- Life skills training
- Soft skills training
- Job readiness skills training
- Employment workshops
- Individualized career coaching
- Group and individualized mentoring

# Services Volunteers of America Provides (continued)

- Financial literacy training
- Paid/unpaid transitional employment
- Job Placement/Job Advancement Assistance
- Linkages to GED/ABE
- Funding for Occupational skills training (leading to degree or industry recognized certification)
- Group and individual counseling (for areas such as, Drug & Alcohol, Anger, etc...)
- Comprehensive follow up
- Barrier Busting Funding/Supportive Services



# Unique Program Elements

- Gender Responsive/Trauma Informed Model of Care
- Utilize Evidenced Based Approaches to Ensure Client Success
- Targets Employment Not “Traditionally” Held By Women i.e:
  - Welding
  - Logistics
  - Electricians/Plumbing
  - HVAC
- Utilize Paid Transitional Work Experiences to Increase Employment Outcomes
- Individual and Group Mentoring Is a Critical Component

# Eligibility

- Clients must be within 90 days of release from incarceration (jail or prison)
- Clients must be within 180 days post release from incarceration
- Never has been convicted of sexual offense (other than prostitution)

**AND**

**Must exhibit 5 of these 7 client descriptors:**

1. History of substance abuse
2. History of treated or untreated mental illness
3. History of past trauma or victimization
4. History of serving as primary caregiver to minor child(ren)
5. Chronic low self-esteem rooted in unhealthy relationships
6. Income at or below poverty prior to incarceration
7. History of violent offenses

## Referral process

Email or fax completed referral form  
to Larcina Hicks

Email: [lhicks@voain.org](mailto:lhicks@voain.org)

Fax: ATTN: Larcina Hicks  
317-200-3637

[STRIVE Referral](#)

## Please Include

- Proof of Incarceration and/or release from incarceration
- Client will need to provide State ID/Driver's license and academic verification (if possible)
- *Upon acceptance into the program, client will become eligible for certain needs based financial assistances (i.e. bus passes, child care, housing assistance)*